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EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA:
TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 26, 1858.

Some of our Democratic contemporaries have used "quires of paper and kegs of ink" in extolling the merits of what is known, in the phrase of the day, as Popular Sovereignty. And, pray what is Popular Sovereignty, as defined by its advocates? Nothing in the world but the right of the people of a territory when they come to organize a State government to decide for themselves what shall be the character of their institutions. Is there any thing new in this doctrine?—Among the various parties of the country, is there one of sufficient importance to be recognized as a party, that denies to the people of a territory the right in forming their constitution preparatory to their admission into the Union, to shape their domestic affairs to suit themselves? Not one, so far as we are advised or believe. And yet the Democracy, the Southern Democracy especially, would have us believe that Popular Sovereignty is something new under the sun, and that the country is indebted to them for the discovery of this principle, which is to cure all the ills with which the body politic is afflicted. Upon what ground the assumption is founded we are left entirely to conjecture, since none of the political parties of the day deny the doctrine as explained by those who claim to be its peculiar guardians and friends. There is a party at the North, it is true, a large and formidable party, that maintains the power of Congress over the subject of slavery in the territories, but it is not pretended by that party, that the people of the territories should not be allowed, in organizing their State governments, to "form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way."

Why all this clamor, then, on the part of the Southern Democracy about a matter upon which all parties are agreed? Is any practical good to result to the country by ringing the changes day after day upon this doctrine of Popular Sovereignty, which means nothing more nor less than the right of the people to govern themselves? There is a question, however, which underlies this, and which has a practical significance as connected with the territories of the Union. We mean "Squatter Sovereignty"—a doctrine advocated by Douglas, and Cass, and Bigler, and Tooley, and many of the smaller lights of the Democracy. If instead of making themselves hoarse by singing hosannas to Popular Sovereignty, the Southern Democracy would turn their attention for a time to the teachings of some of their "Northern allies," and rebuke their dangerous heresies, they would find themselves more profitably employed. Their batteries directed against those who are preaching doctrines more odious, according to the showing of the Democracy of the South, than the Wilmot Proviso might have the effect of opening the eyes of the Southern people to the danger of putting their trust in those who have been held up to them in certain quarters as particularly true to their institutions.

The Union says:—"We learn that dates have been received from the legation of the United States in China to July 31st. The treaty with this government, and those with Great Britain, France, and Russia, have all been ratified by the Emperor. Nothing remains, we suppose, on our part, but the final approval by the President and Senate, of the treaty negotiated by Mr. Reed, when it may be despatched to China for the exchange of ratifications. This fortunate settlement of the Chinese questions, without the difficulty and expense which would have attended a distant war, reflects credit alike on the administration and on its able negotiator in China."

The Charlottesville Advocate says:—"We have it upon the very best authority that the Hon. Paulus Powell will not be permitted to walk over the field unopposed, in the next Spring election for Congressmen. The important to whom we allude is a distinguished Democrat, whose personal popularity and high position in the Democratic ranks, will secure his triumphant election over Mr. Powell. The Whig and American party will have no candidate."

Ira Stout was executed on Friday last, at Rochester, New York, for the murder of Mr. Little, his brother-in-law. The death was painful to witness. His neck was probably not dislocated, and he died by a slow process of strangulation. Drs. Hall, Avery, James, and Miller stood near, and in eight minutes after the drop fell they said his pulse was as full as in life. At the end of half an hour his body was cut down.

The Staunton Vindicator, (Dem.) is out and out against Alexandria being selected as the place for holding the Democratic Convention, declaring it to be "on the very border line of the state, with some doubt of its being a Virginia city," &c. &c. Of course, according to the Vindicator, Staunton must be the place. This accounts for its language.

Col. JOHN TAYLOR, of King George County, has been suggested by many of his friends for a seat in the next Virginia Legislature. He is a most excellent and intelligent gentleman, and without knowing who will be the candidates, or what the people will ultimately determine on, we will say, that, if elected, he would make a faithful representative.

We are indebted to the Hon. Wm. Smith, for several volumes of very valuable public documents.

Members of Congress are already arriving in Washington, and ordering rooms at the hotels and boarding houses, for the winter.

E. P. Nash a prominent merchant of Petersburg, Va., died on Friday.

A case of breach of promise of marriage under a new phase, at least for this country, has developed itself in the Court at Brooklyn, N. Y. It appears that a scamp of a fellow, already married, but who represented himself otherwise, contracted with a young woman to enter the holy state. The day was appointed, but a short time before it the lady discovered that her intended was already provided with a helpmate. The young woman, nothing daunted, sued for a breach of promise, and her judgment was made, to the extent of \$5,000. An appeal was taken, but the Appellate Court has sustained the judgment on the state of the facts presented, and further that it was in consonance with decisions of the English courts.

The young English girl, Miss Henrietta Polidore, who was lately rescued by her father from the Mormons, is soon expected at Washington in charge of Judge Eckles. The Danish minister at Washington has made a request on the part of his government (similar to that made by Lord Napier in the Polidore case) for intervention in behalf of a young girl abducted from her parents, who is now on her way to Salt Lake City, with a party of emigrants.

The residence of John B. White, esq., of Romney, Va., was entirely destroyed by fire on the 21st inst. The fire, it is supposed, was occasioned from a defect in a chimney. Most of the furniture was saved, but more or less injured. Mr. White's loss is variously estimated at from \$3,500 to \$4,000.

Passengers by the Austria.

The official list of the passengers who were on board the steamer Austria, which was destroyed on the 13th of September, has been received by the agents of the Hamburg Packet Company in New York, by the Europa.

No. of passengers in first cabin..... 67
No. of passengers in second cabin..... 116
No. of passengers in steerage..... 249
Officers and crew (not received)..... 102

Total..... 534

First cabin...... 3

Second cabin...... 51

Steerage...... 16-78

Officers and crew...... 102

Lost...... 456

The following, however, shows that there are still ten persons to be accounted for, who are marked among the saved.

Arrived at New York by the Lotus..... 22

Arrived at New York by the Valorous, from Fayal..... 42

Remained at Fayal in hospital..... 9

Left Fayal for Hamburg (crew)..... 9

Total..... 88

These discrepancies may arise from the fact that in many cases a ticket was procured by one person for two or three others of the same family, while only one name is mentioned.

Thus, on board the Valorous, there were two or three names which do not appear in the above list. It is also probable that there were several on board whose presence was not known to the agents, and whose names consequently would not appear. The foregoing, however, must approximate very nearly to the true list of the lost and saved.

A Remarkable Incident.

Reason Restored.—The Havana Pronza notices a remarkable incident as one of the results of the shock from the recent terrible explosion; no less than the restoration to reason of a lady of that city who had entirely lost her mind some six months ago, from a severe and protracted spell of melancholy. During the whole of that period she did not recognize any one, not even her parents and other near relatives. When the explosion took place, she was instantly thrown into violent paroxysms, which the family considered an indication of the speedy approach of death. The paroxysms gradually subsided, and all were rejoiced to find her situation quite the reverse of what was expected; her reason was entirely restored. This case presents an interesting question for our medical philosophers.

Railroad Decision.

The Cincinnati papers contain the full decision of Judge McLean with regard to Railroad bonds. The point was whether Railroad Companies have a right to issue stock at a price below that named in the charter. The Hillsborough and Cincinnati Railroad Company issued and transferred to William Sturges fifteen thousand shares of stock for \$521,677, being less by \$228,333 than the rate (\$50 per share) made in the charter. Sturges subsequently transferred 600 shares to Stetson, for his promissory note for \$24,000, which was not taken up. Sturges sued on the note, and the case was taken before the Circuit Court on demurrer. The demurrer was overruled, and the validity of the sale by Sturges sustained.

Exportation of Grain in Bags.

For some time past the exportation of grain in bags has been almost entirely suspended, in consequence of an order from Secretary Cobb subjecting the bags, without the duty and expense which would have attended a distant war, reflects credit alike on the administration and on its able negotiator in China."

The South Platte Gold Mines.

LEAVENWORTH, Oct. 20, via Bonaville, Oct. 22, per U. S. Express.—A portion of the company formed in Lawrence City have returned from the South Platte mines. Their accounts fully authenticate the existence of gold all along the South Platte, having prospect everywhere with fair success.

Most of the miners were seeking winter quarters at Bent's and St. Vrain Fort. The quarters at Bent's design wintering at Lawrence City party design wintering at Lawrence City, (where they were tendered a public reception,) and return to the mines in the spring with a large outfit. Numbers of gold miners continue to leave here, with the intention of wintering along the road.

The West Indies.

By late advices from the West Indies it appears that the sugar crop everywhere, and especially at Demerara, was nearly all gathered in, and will prove more abundant than for twenty years past. Some local houses that had failed last year were about to resume business. The principal topic of discussion in the islands was the immigration, or labor question. At Turk's Island the season for salt making has been very favorable. About half a million bushels are ready for market; present prices 7½ to 8 cents per bushel.

ANKERBOTE.—This cognomen has been used so often, by those who have no right to it, and have forfeited all title to it, that it has lost the significance which was once attached to it. A gentleman of Saint Louis, probably Edward Bates, who at one time considered it an honor to be so styled, has lately become disgusted with the abuse of the term. He gave a definition, says the Democrat, of what he considered an "Old Line Whig" of the present day. He says he is a man who takes his liquor regularly, votes the Democratic ticket occasionally, and

likes the Whig.

News of the Day.

"To show the very age and body of the Times."

The St. Louis papers contain an address of Gov. Dever to the people of Kansas on retiring from office. He says that henceforth the continuance of peace in that territory depends more on the people themselves than on the Governor; that they have an abundance of local civil officers elected by themselves without disturbance or interference; that they have just accomplished the peaceful election of a Legislature, and it makes no material difference who may be Governor. He does not think the Territory yet prepared for a State organization.

The yellow fever has broken out at Fort Brown, Texas, and we regret to see that Brevet Lieut. Col. Francis Taylor, major of the first regiment of U. S. artillery, is among the victims. He died on the 11th inst. The New Orleans Picayune says also: "The yellow fever has been very severe at Brownsville."

Late advices from New Mexico state that Capt. McLane, of Baltimore, lately wounded in the recent engagement with the Indians, is rapidly recovering, and anxious to return again upon active duty.

The police in New York are making efforts to arrest a noted female swindler, known in Baltimore and throughout the Union. Rev. Mr. Hunter, of Philadelphia, is among her victims. Judge Johnston, of Texas, suffered a depletion of \$3,550 at the hands of the adroit woman. Forged drafts, forged title-deeds and a smooth tongue effected the pecuniary drain upon the pithless pockets of the usually sharp judge. From Texas she sailed for California, and practised several successful swindles in the golden-landed city. Wm. Franklin, one of the heaviest lumber-dealers in San Francisco is said to have lost \$50,000 in gold, in exchange for worthless drafts. Several Baltimoreans have also been swindled by her.

Ten thousand eight hundred and seventy passports have been issued since Gen. Cass was appointed Secretary. Allowing each to cover three members of a family, the aggregate made must exceed 22,000. Taking the expenditures to be \$1,000 each, we find that this way thirty-two millions have been carried out of the country. This estimate does not include the old passports used, or those procured from the American Legation in the British Dominions.

John L. Mortimer, a native of Baltimore, and formerly a resident of Pittsburgh, was murdered in Cincinnati, on Friday, by a man named Augustus Ward, a notorious rowdy, and formerly a convict in the Penitentiary. Mr. Mortimer is said to have been a very peaceable citizen, and was in the employ of David Miller, Jr., a dealer in wines in Cincinnati.

Gen. Walker writes to Col. Doubleday, at Cleveland, that on the 10th of November a vessel, with freight and passengers, will leave Mobile for San Juan del Norte. He says any one desirous of emigrating to Nicaragua will be taken out. More filibustering, we suppose.

The Norfolk Day Book states that so severe is the drought in that section of the State that the citizens of Suffolk are forced to send three miles to the canal for water to drink; an event that has never before known by the oldest inhabitants of that town. At Norfolk, also, the districts have become exhausted.

Collector Schell of New York, has seized a large lot of French China, in consequence of its including a number of little China images pronounced indecent by the Collector. An appeal was taken to Secretary Cobb, who sustains the decision of Mr. Schell.

Theodore Richards, of Baltimore, pleaded guilty in the Court of Quarter Sessions of Philadelphia, on Saturday, to the charge of voting illegally. The Philadelphia court has indicted a judge of election for wilful fraud.

Albion Pippins are selling in the markets of New York city at \$8 per barrel. Are not apples, at such a price, far more remunerative to our farmers, than wheat, corn or even tobacco?

The Synod of Virginia will meet in Charlottesville on Wednesday, the 5th day of November next. From all that we can gather, this session of the Synod will be more fully attended than any held for several years.

Serfdom in Russia.

The Czar Alexander II. has resolutely addressed himself to the task of extinguishing serfdom in Russia, wholly and forever, and the measure is one of so much magnitude and importance, and the obstacles so many and so serious, that his manifestly difficult and arduous task.

Already there have been crowned successes, which indicate how perilous a duty it is that he has undertaken to perform. The rescripts he has already issued upon this subject, have not been received by the landed proprietors with that implicit respect and obedience which are usually accorded to the commands of a sovereign clothed with so absolute a power over the lives and property of his subjects. The serfs themselves, impatient under the thralldom to which they are subjected, and animated by a vague hope of instant and unconditional emancipation, have broken out into open insurrection at several points of the Empire, and have compelled their masters to abandon their estates and take refuge in the cities, from the personal danger to which they were exposed. On the other hand, the serf-owners upon whom the scheme of emancipation will entail heavy pecuniary losses, evince a disposition to evade, by passive resistance, the consummation of a reform which they shrink from actively opposing.—*Bull. Rep.*

The Yellow Fever at Antislavery Posts.

The following is a general statement of the number of deaths from yellow fever up to the current date, at several antislavery stations of the United States:

At Fort Moultrie, Sullivan's Island, S. C.—Thirty men. Garrison, two companies and regimental band.

Fort Brown, Brownsville, Texas.—Garrison, company K, 1st artillery. Two sergeants, three corporals, twenty-five privates, two lance-corporals, one ordnance sergeant and his wife, with Col. F. Taylor, Major 1st artillery, commanding. There were, on the 12th inst., twenty-five men sick in the hospital, and only twelve for duty, out of seventy strong in September.

At Fort McHenry, Md., one sergeant, one private, one lance-corporal, and one ordnance sergeant.

The following discouraging and painful telegraphic dispatch from the Howard Association of New Orleans, is dated the 23d inst:—"The Howard Association regret to announce that the epidemic continues in fatal prevalence, and caution the unaccustomed to keep away." E. F. Schmitt, President."

Some musical teacher once wrote "that the art of playing the violin implied the nicest perception and the most delicate sensibility of any art in the known world." A country squire in commenting on the same, says:—"The art of publishing a newspaper, and making it pay, beats the art of fiddling higher than a kite."

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Important Telegraphic Movement.

An organization of all the telegraph lines in the United States, (except the seaboard line from Boston to New Orleans, which points are also connected by wires through the interior,) we learn from the Journal of Commerce is just being perfected, under the title of the "North American Telegraphic Association," having for its object the union, extension, and improvement of telegraphic facilities throughout the country. The first meeting was held on Thursday, and embraced several telegraphic corporations, including one in Canada. A primary object, we understand, is to effect a united, comprehensive, and economical working of the whole telegraphic system, under which tolls may be reduced to the lowest remunerative rates.

We learn that the North American Telegraph Association has already taken action with a view to the early completion of a direct telegraphic connection of the Mississippi River with California, under the grant of Congress, (procured through the efforts of the late Mr. Eddy, General Superintendent of the American Telegraph Company,) of a strip of land two hundred feet in width through the public domain, between those points. This enterprise is in no way connected with, or dependent upon any other project already existing for extending lines from California to Missouri, or San Antonio in Texas; nor does it follow that the expedition with which the work is prosecuted, will be in any degree affected by the course of events in relation to the Atlantic Cable, although the success of the latter would greatly conduce to the prosperity of the former.

Thus we see the way opening, with rapid strides for the first union of America with Asia and Europe, by way of Behring's Straits, or the Aleutian Islands.

It is not unlikely that application will be made to the next session of Congress for aid in this undertaking, at least, that the protection of military posts may be afforded, as far as practicable.

The Convention of Telegraphers referred to above, is the most numerous attended of any of its kind ever held in the United States.—*Bull. Amer.*

A Shooting Case in Baltimore.

Two young men, who gave their names as Marion Ord and Charles Taylor, were before the Mayor on Saturday morning, charged with being the parties who attempted to murder A. Wurzburger by shooting him with a pistol, in the store of his brother, S. Wurzburger, Franklin street, on Friday night last. S. Wurzburger identified the two young men, who were taken to the store and offered to sell a ball ticket to his brother, who told them he had no money to throw away on such things. They then asked him for money, but were refused for the same reason. One of them then said, "D—n you, do you expect to keep store here if you don't pay?" and the other recognized as Charles Taylor struck him in the face, when he called for the police, and both ran into the doorway. Cord drew a single-barrel pistol, and leveling it at Wurzburger, fired, the ball entering the face on the right side of the nose, below the eye. Wurzburger would have fallen, but was caught in the arms of his brother, who carried him to the store, and called for the police. The accused then ran out of the store and escaped for the time. Information of the shooting was lodged with Capt. Brown, of the western district, and six special officers were stationed in many parts of the city, furnished with a description of the accused. During the night officers Norwood and Watkins, of the western district, apprehended Ord and confined him in the station. Sergeant Hough, on going to the middle station, found that Taylor had been previously arrested by officer Robinson, on a charge of assaulting and beating John Kelly, for which officer Justice Moore had committed him for court. He was immediately held upon the grave charge of assaulting with intent to kill Wurzburger, and with his accomplices, arranged before the mayor, who committed them to jail without security, to await the action of the grand jury.

Wurzburger's condition is yet considered critical, and his physician thinks it impossible to remove the ball, which passed through the face above the roof of the mouth and now lies embedded near the back of the neck. Yesterday he was unable to swallow his food, and fluids could alone be taken without great pain.—*Baltimore Sun.*

Fortune Tellers in New York.

Few would at first thought be inclined to believe what is nevertheless true, that the city of New York swarms with fortune tellers and diviners. The evil of this is felt, and the policemen have been invoked in the premises. What has been done within a day or two, that flowing paragraph from the New York Times will give.

"At the Mayor's office yesterday there was a compulsory gathering of fortune tellers, clairvoyants, spiritists, and fortune-tellers, to the number of eleven. Arrived with warrants, officer Barney made a general tour of inspection, which resulted in a grand gathering of female notabilities in the presence of the Chief Magistrate and Justice Welch—youth and old, the coarsely vulgar and the semi-learned. The Mayor heard their statements. Some admitted that they had been in the 'profession,' in this city, from two to twenty years. They had, they said, and there were twenty, been caught by the officers, a variety of large dark keys, bottles, magic glasses, and bits of paper of cards, and other implements with which to look into futurity, together with some astronomical diagrams, and a few German books of palmistry."

The upshot was that two of them were locked up, others gave bail, and others were permitted to go, on promise of abandoning the profession.

Clergymen at New Orleans.

The New Orleans Bulletin says:—"One Protestant and two Catholic clergymen have already fallen at their posts since the epidemic commenced among us. More recently the Rev. G. J. Moore, of the Third Presbyterian Church, has been attacked, and is rapidly convalescing; and we have to announce the death of Rev. Wm. H. Walker, of the First Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Dr. Walker, the Presiding Elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church of this District, are both down with the fever. We understand Dr. Palmer's attack to be very light, and no apprehensions are entertained as to the result. Dr. Walker was attacked in Baton Rouge, where we presume he was a student. Our clergymen, as a general rule, have performed their duties like brave soldiers, during the progress of the epidemic, and their labors will be appreciated long after the scourge shall have passed away."

Mails for Germany.

It is officially stated that mails for Germany will be regularly made up and dispatched from New York by the several lines of United States, Bremen, and Hamburg mail steamers, as follows, viz:

To Bremen on 30th October; Hamburg on 1st November; Bremen on 6th November; Hamburg on 15th November; Bremen on 20th November; Hamburg on 27th November; Bremen on 4th December; Hamburg on 11th December; Bremen on 18th and 25th December.

The rates of postage to Germany upon letters transmitted by either of the above lines of mail steamers, are precisely the same, being the regular established rates "by Bremen or Hamburg mail," as published in the table of postages to foreign countries. Postmasters in the interior should forward at once to New York, all letters, &c., for Germany, mailed to go by either of these lines.

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A Hundred Years Ago.

The Pittsburgh Post of the 21st inst., alluding to the near approach of the one hundredth anniversary of O. Fort Duquesne says:—"One hundred years ago there was not a white man in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois Territories. Then, what is now the most flourishing part of America, was as little known as the country around the mountains of the moon. It was not until 1769, that the 'Hunter of Kentucky,' the gallant and adventurous Boone, left his home in North Carolina, to become the first settler of Kentucky. The first pioneers of Ohio, did not settle until twenty years after this time. A hundred years ago Canada belonged to France, and the whole population of the United States had not exceeded a million and a half of people. A hundred years ago, the great Frederick of Prussia, was performing these great exploits which have made him immortal in military annals, and with his little monarchy was sustaining a single handed contest with Russia, Austria, and France—the three great powers of Europe, combined. A hundred years ago Napoleon was not born and Washington was a young and modest Virginia Colonel, and the great events in the history of two worlds, in which these great but dissimilar men took leading parts, were then secretly fore-shadowed. A hundred years ago the United States were the most loyal part of the British Empire, and on the political horizon no speck indicated the struggle which, within a score of years thereafter, established the greatest republic of the world. A hundred years ago there were but four newspapers in America—steam engines had not been imagined, and railroads and telegraphs had not entered into the remotest conception of man. When we come to look back at it through the vista of history we find that the century which has passed has been allotted more important events in its bearing upon the happiness of the world, than any other which has elapsed since the creation."

A hundred years hence what will be the developments? It is past finding out, except in one thing—a thought which astonished Xerxes when he stood upon Mount Athos—all, with but few exceptions now living will be dead.

Telegraphic Despatches.

NEW HAVEN, Oct. 23.—The Great Sewing Machine patent case has been decided in favor of the plaintiffs, fully sustaining the validity of the re-issue to Allen E. Wilson, which was subsequently assigned to Putnam & Wheeler.

St. Louis, Oct. 24.—The overland California mail, with dates to the 27th ult., four days later than received by way of the Isthmus, has arrived. No papers however were brought.

Arrangements are being made by which regular letters will be established between St. Louis and San Francisco.

PORTLAND, Oct. 23.—A trial of John A. Holmes, late master of the ship Theresa, before the United States District Court, for the murder of Geo. W. Chidwick, seaman, was finished yesterday, the jury rendering a verdict of guilty.

LOUISVILLE, October 22, 1858.—The Memphis steamer Ben Franklin was burnt yesterday near Vicksburg, and is a total loss. No lives were lost.

MONTREAL, Oct. 23.—The steamer Nova Scotia sailed from Quebec at 10 o'clock this morning for Liverpool, with 161 passengers.

SAVANNAH, Oct. 22.—There was but one death from yellow fever in this city yesterday.

Pugilism.

If there is anything upon which a decent citizen looks with intense disgust, it is the eagerness with which a large class of readers seek the details and particulars of "fistic fights." To any man who has not caught the fever of pugilism, it seems incredible that there can attach any interest to the reports regarding the mutual mauling of two bullies—lawless vagabonds who wrong the house of correction every day that they spend outside of its precincts. There are plenty of comparatively harmless breakers of the peace who are in duress for a blow, or a loud word, while these professors of pugilism receive the honors of their satellites, and revel in "free-presses." The whole of a certain sort of public is moved to ecstasy or despondence by the contest, bet change hands, and the telegraph wires are busy in announcing the programme and the performance. The moribund part of the matter is, not so much that there are blackguards who can thus abuse each other, but that people, in other respects respectable, many of whom would on no account witness a prize fight, can still seek the printed accounts and read them with avidity. We submit that this flogging of the prize ring upon the American public is rather a touch. It is entirely a superfluity.—*Phil. Amer.*

Texas Expedition against Indians.</